1 <u>CLAIMS</u>

- What is claimed, is:
- 1. A method for operating a computer system comprising:
- 4 having at least one content provider coupled via a portal which may also be coupled to a
- 5 user;
- said at least one content provider offering a new content to the portal;
- 7 the portal comparing credentials of said at least one content provider with stored
- 8 credentials of registered content providers; and
- 9 the portal accepting or rejecting at least a particular provider included in said at least one
- 10 content provider based on said stored credentials.
- 2. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising offering said credentials of said at
- least one content provider to the portal together with the new content.
- 3. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising storing said credentials of the
- registered content providers in a database of the portal.
- 4. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising performing automatically said
- 16 comparison of the credentials with an intelligent program having a rule database.
- 5. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising performing manually said
- 18 comparison of the credentials...

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- 6. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the portal checking the new
- 2 content, and the portal accepting or rejecting the new content.
- 7. A method as recited in claim 6 wherein the evaluation of the new content is
- 4 performed semi-automatically or fully automatically.
- 8. A method as recited in claim 6 wherein the user is notified about the new content if
- 6 the new content matches with preferences of the user.
- 7 9. An article of manufacture comprising a computer usable medium having computer
- 8 readable program code means embodied therein for causing operation of a computer
- 9 system, the computer readable program code means in said article of manufacture
- 10 comprising computer readable program code means for causing a computer to effect the
- 11 steps of claim 1.
- 12 10. A computer system comprising at least one content provider which is coupled to a
- portal which may be coupled to a user wherein said at least one content provider
- comprises means for offering a new content to the portal, wherein the portal comprises
- means for comparing credentials of said at least one content provider with stored
- credentials of registered content providers, and wherein the portal comprises means for
- accepting or rejecting said at least one content provider.
- 18 11. The computer system of claim 10 wherein the portal comprises a database for
- registered content provider credentials.
- 20 12. A computer system as recited in claim 10 wherein said at least one content
- 21 providers, the portal and the user are coupled via the Internet.

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- 1 13. A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of
- 2 instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for causing operation of a
- computer system, said method steps comprising the steps of claim 1.
- 4 14. An article of manufacture comprising a computer usable medium having computer
- 5 readable program code means embodied therein for causing operation of a computer
- 6 system, the computer readable program code means in said article of manufacture
- 7 comprising computer readable program code means for causing a computer to effect the
- steps of claim 2.
- 9 15. A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having
- 10 computer readable program code means embodied therein for causing operation of a
- computer system, the computer readable program code means in said computer program
- product comprising computer readable program code means for causing a computer to
- effect the functions of claim 10.
- 14 16. A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having
- computer readable program code means embodied therein for causing operation of a
- computer system, the computer readable program code means in said computer program
- product comprising computer readable program code means for causing a computer to
- 18 effect the functions of claim 11.